

We claim:

1. A method of preventing stroke, comprising administering to a patient in need of such prevention an effective amount of an inhibitor of the renin-angiotensin system or a pharmaceutically acceptable derivative thereof.
2. A method of claim 1, wherein the patient exhibits normal or low blood pressure.
3. A method of preventing diabetes, comprising administering to a patient in need of such prevention an effective amount of an inhibitor of the renin-angiotensin system or a pharmaceutically acceptable derivative thereof.
4. A method of preventing congestive heart failure in a patient not previously having congestive heart failure, comprising administering to said patient an effective amount of an inhibitor of the renin-angiotensin system or a pharmaceutically acceptable derivative thereof.
5. A method of claim 1, 3, or 4, wherein the inhibitor of the renin-angiotensin system is an angiotensin converting enzyme inhibitor, an angiotensin II type 1 receptor antagonist, or a pharmaceutically acceptable derivative of any of these.
6. A method of claim 5, wherein the angiotensin converting enzyme inhibitor is alacepril, alatriopril, altiopril calcium, ancovenin, benazepril, benazepril hydrochloride, benazeprilat, benzoylcaptopril, captopril, captopril-cysteine, captopril-glutathione, ceranapril, ceranopril, ceronapril, cilazapril, cilazaprilat, delapril, delapril-diacid, enalapril, enalaprilat, enapril, epicaptopril, foroxymithine, fosfenopril, fosenopril, fosenopril sodium, fosinopril, fosinopril sodium, fosinoprilat, fosinoprilic acid, glycopril, hemorphin-4, idrapril, imidapril, indolapril, indolaprilat, libenzapril, lisinopril, lyciumin A, lyciumin B, mixanpril, moexipril, moexiprilat, moveltipril, muracein A, muracein B, muracein C, pentopril, perindopril, perindoprilat, pivalopril, pivopril, quinapril, quinapril hydrochloride, quinaprilat, ramipril, ramiprilat, spirapril, spirapril hydrochloride, spiraprilat, spiropril, spiropril hydrochloride, temocapril, temocapril hydrochloride, teprotide, trandolapril, trandolaprilat, utibapril, zabcipril,

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zabiciprilat, zofenopril, zofenoprilat, or a pharmaceutically acceptable derivative thereof.

7. The method of claim 6, wherein the angiotensin converting enzyme inhibitor is ramipril, ramiprilat, lisinopril, enalapril, enalaprilat, or a pharmaceutically acceptable derivative thereof.

8. The method of claim 5, wherein the angiotensin II antagonist is candesartan, candesartan cilexetil, losartan, valsartan, irbesartan, tasosartan, telmisartan, eprosartan, or a pharmaceutically acceptable derivative thereof.

9. The method of claim 8, wherein the angiotensin II antagonist is candesartan, candesartan cilexetil, or a pharmaceutically acceptable derivative thereof.

10. A pharmaceutical composition for preventing stroke, diabetes and/or, congestive heart failure in a patient not previously having congestive heart failure, comprising a therapeutically effective amount of an inhibitor of the renin-angiotensin system, or a pharmaceutically acceptable derivative thereof, with a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

11. A pharmaceutical composition of claim 10, wherein the inhibitor of the renin-angiotensin system is an angiotensin converting enzyme inhibitor, an angiotensin II type 1 receptor antagonist, or a pharmaceutically acceptable derivative of any of these.

12. A pharmaceutical composition of claim 11, wherein the angiotensin converting enzyme inhibitor or a pharmaceutically acceptable derivative thereof is alacepril, alatriopril, altiopril calcium, ancovenin, benazepril, benazepril hydrochloride, benazeprilat, benzoylcaptopril, captopril, captopril-cysteine, captopril-glutathione, ceranapril, ceranopril, ceronapril, cilazapril, cilazaprilat, delapril, delapril-diacid, enalapril, enalaprilat, enapril, epicaptopril, foroxymithine, fosfenopril, fosenopril, fosenopril sodium, fosinopril, fosinopril sodium, fosinoprilat, fosinoprillic acid, glycopril, hemorphin-4, idrapril, imidapril, indolapril, indolaprilat, libenzapril, lisinopril, lyciumin A, lyciumin B, mixanpril, moexipril, moexiprilat, moveltipril, muracein A, muracein B, muracein C,

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pentopril, perindopril, perindoprilat, pivalopril, pivopril, quinapril, quinapril hydrochloride, quinaprilat, ramipril, ramiprilat, spirapril, spirapril hydrochloride, spiraprilat, spiropril, spiropril hydrochloride, temocapril, temocapril hydrochloride, teprotide, trandolapril, trandolaprilat, utibapril, zabicipril, zabiciprilat, zofenopril or zofenoprilat.

13. A pharmaceutical composition of claim 12, wherein the angiotensin converting enzyme inhibitor is ramipril, ramiprilat, lisinopril, enalapril enalaprilat or a pharmaceutically acceptable derivative thereof.

14. A pharmaceutical composition of claim 11, wherein the angiotensin II antagonist is candesartan, candesartan cilexetil, losartan, valsartan, irbesartan, tasosartan, telmisartan, eprosartan or a pharmaceutically acceptable derivative thereof.

15. A pharmaceutical composition of claim 14, wherein the angiotensin II antagonist is candesartan, candesartan cilexetil, or a pharmaceutically acceptable derivative thereof.

16. A pharmaceutical composition of claim 10, wherein the inhibitor of the renin-angiotensin system is present in an amount ranging from about 0.1 mg to about 1000 mg.

17. A pharmaceutical composition of claim 10, wherein the inhibitor of the renin-angiotensin system is present in an amount ranging from about 0.1 mg to about 100 mg.

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